

# WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

No 302

With which is incorporated  
The International Socialist Review for Australasia.

SYDNEY: FEBRUARY 5, 1916.

Registered at the General Post Office, Sydney,  
for transmission by post as a Newspaper.

PRICE, ONE PENNY



The Worker's Choice.

## Calvaripoli.

"OPEN SESAME" UP-TO-DATE

(Written for the "International Socialist,"  
appropriates the recruiting inducements of Gen.  
McCay, Sir William Irvine, and the Church.)

The shades of heaven were drawn fast:  
The season dull. Few mortals passed  
The burnished lintel, where St. Pete,  
Jobless and ennuied on his seat  
Lay floppily.

It irked the Saint to contemplate  
The crowd, like flies, at Sheol's gate;  
When suddenly a shout boomed up  
Through the din of Vickers, Maxim, Krupp,  
"Gallipoli!"

St. Peter sprang to guard the door,  
And scan the mortal, soaked with gore,  
Who flourished under Peter's eyes  
Some bunting with the strange device—  
"Gallipoli!"

"Try not to pass," the Keeper said,  
"Until your record I have read."  
For answer came a whooping yell  
That jarred the stove-pipes down in Hell—  
"Gallipoli!"

"Oh! say," St. Peter cried, "this bounce  
Woe! go with me, I must announce  
Your record's black enough to—well,  
Make you upon the road to hell  
Go slippily!"

"Bewail the charge of homicide,  
Theft, forgery, several other things beside,  
A wink was in The Other's eye,  
He flapped his flag and made reply—  
"Gallipoli!"

"The Decalogue from first to last  
You've smashed. The 'limit' is your past,  
The Other fumbled at his belt,  
Produced some strips of heathen pelt—  
"Gallipoli!"

"Twas there I sponged my record white,  
And bought salvation in a night,  
Renounced the Devil and his works,  
By poking bayonets into Turks  
"Gallipoli!"

"There in the reek of murder gore  
I found imperishable glory,  
From press and platform comes the flat—  
"All crime's wiped out for those who die at  
Gallipoli!"

"You'll find all shirkers damned in hell,  
The parsons say so—they know well,  
Jehovah's had the eternal Zion  
Reserved for chaps who kill and die in  
"Gallipoli!"

St. Peter bowed. The door flew wide  
The swaggering hero passed inside,  
He jostled the patriarchs grouped round God,  
He had squared things up on that corpse-  
strewn sod—  
"Gallipoli!"

There on the tideless jasper sea,  
With heavenly mermaids junkets he  
His blessing, like a falling star,  
Drops on the glutted graves of far  
"Gallipoli!"

## The Passing Show.

Twin evils—the Cross and the Sword.

So long as men pray they will be  
slaved.

So long as men prey they will murder.

War is debasing, but poverty is more  
debasing, and its toll is greater.

Christian nations at war denounce any  
atrocities which the other fellows com-  
mit.

The idea that the State owns the indi-  
vidual, body and soul, will breed war as  
long as it lasts.

Russia fighting to preserve civilization  
is a sight for the gods.

Australia's zeal in the fight for free-  
dom from Prussian militarism is only  
equalled by her avidity to adopt it.

One thing has been amply proven by the  
war—the Mahomedan is a more humane  
soldier than the Christian.

War is an evil, but the conditions and  
institutions that cause it are far worse.

War is a spontaneous combustion of the  
conditions crystallized out of Christian  
capitalism.

If the evidence is all in, one other thing  
has been settled by the war—patriotism is  
only skin deep, while profits permeates  
the entire system.

Why the heavens didn't fall when Billy  
Hughes asked for a day of prayer is only  
explicable on the theory that there "ain't  
none."

In the whole history of Australian poli-  
tics nothing was ever quite so hypocritical  
as Little Billy's call for prayers.

Thousands of pious Australians pre-  
tend to be shocked at the "atrocities"  
perpetrated by the "Huns" of Germany.  
How many, if any, were shocked at the  
hanging of Jackson in Melbourne the  
other day?

The grand and ennobling spectacle of  
millions of wage-slaves butchering each  
other for the preservation of their mas-  
ters' property is, according to the press,  
very inspiring. But does it inspire confi-  
dence in the ruling faction in the mind  
of any thoughtful person?

Soldiers writing from the front some-  
times refer to war as the greatest of all  
sports, but what chance for sport is af-  
forded in mowing men down by merely  
turning the crank of a machine gun?

Speaking at a recent Melbourne Town  
Hall recruiting meeting, Mr. Hughes de-  
clared he would cast the syndicalists out  
of the Labor Party "like the devils out  
of the swine."

The new Saviour!

"It is my duty to say that the Govern-  
ment appreciated the attitude of the banks  
generally speaking, but personally I think  
that some of the banks might do a little  
more in the way of the war loan."—Mr.  
Higgs, Federal Treasurer.

Seeing that the banks can invest money  
elsewhere and declare dividends of 10 per  
cent. and upwards, the Federal Treasurer  
will have some difficulty in popularising  
the 4½ per cent. war loan.

The longer the war lasts the more does  
it look like a fake at heart, tacitly or  
actually agreed upon by that two per  
cent. of the population which owns the  
land and wealth of Europe. The two per  
cent. are always scheming to stay the ris-  
ing tide of Socialism and revalidate the  
waning land titles. These have to be  
revalidated by human blood every now  
and then, or they would lapse, and the  
Prussian Junkers and the British "Old  
Nobility" will willingly sacrifice a few  
million wage-slaves to maintain titles,  
deeds and mortgages. Does anybody really  
believe that the Kaiser, the Czar, or the  
ruling class of Britain care a kuss for  
freedom and civilization? No, they dread  
the time when the workers will become in-  
telligent enough to dispossess their land-  
lords and repudiate the debts built up by  
interest-mongers.

Putting all buncombe aside, Europe's  
war is for profit. It is for pounds, shil-  
lings and pence, dollars, francs, and  
thalers. This is a commercial era in which  
the strongest good or evil passions are  
universally amenable to the clink of gold.

Profit triumphs over all feelings of patriot-  
ism or national prejudice. Passions and  
affections fluctuate as stocks or wages  
rise and fall. Though here and there may  
be found small numbers of rebels to the  
omnipotent god of Christendom, Mammon;  
though now and then one may dare to  
refuse to bow before the supreme capi-  
talist deity, all are ruled by him. Where-  
ever capitalism has penetrated there rules  
the only god whose sway is absolute.

There is something sublime in the rebel.  
It is absolutely owing to him that man is  
less a slave upon the whole than he was  
when he built the pyramids in chains  
under the lash of the whip. Christians  
claim credit for this, but on the whole they  
have contributed nothing—nothing but  
obstacles—thumb-screws, racks, torture  
chambers, and blood-murder.

So far, the united prayers of the  
churches on January 2 have had no effect.  
The war still goes on. Of course, Little  
Billy knew, when he asked the churches to  
pray, that it would do no good. We as-  
sume that he has that much intelligence.  
The heads of the churches knew it would  
do no good, but all united to keep up the  
bluff. The Kaiser, and the rest of the  
hunc-peddlers, when they pray, know it  
will do no good, that is why, while they  
pray they make immense preparations  
with battleships, artillery and armies to  
help the Lord to give them the victory.

The South Australian Government has  
undertaken the distribution of the surplus  
fruit crop.—News Item.

The surplus, we presume, will be all  
that private dealers cannot dispose of  
otherwise than by getting the Govern-  
ment to buy it. How the Government  
is to sell what private enterprise has left  
on its hands is a conundrum which the  
public is left to tackle.

"The world's war, as it has now re-  
solved itself, is not to be won by men or  
munitions—or both; it is to be won by  
money. This great fact is becoming in-  
creasingly evident. Men will do much,  
munitions will do much; but men and  
munitions can only be kept going by  
money."—"Daily Chronicle" (London)

If money wins the war, we may be sure  
that the spoils will go to its owners—the  
financiers.

Writing in the "Australian Worker"  
(27/1/16) Mark Tyne suggests that writ-  
ers and speakers, when referring to the  
Government of this or that State, should  
call it by its political name—Labor or  
Liberal, otherwise the working man might  
forget that such a thing as a Labor Gov-  
ernment existed in the States of Aus-  
tralia to-day.

Just so. Unless they are labelled care-  
fully the working man will be apt to con-  
clude that there is no difference between  
them. He might even get into the habit  
of calling them both Liberal.

Preaching in Berlin recently, the Rev.  
Fritz Philipi said: "How righteously may  
we, indeed the most peaceful people under  
the sun, repeat those words of the Prince  
of Peace: 'Do not believe that I have  
come to bring peace to the world, I have  
come not to bring peace, but the sword.'"  
When you come to think of it, Christians  
have used the sword to some purpose.  
They seem to be peculiarly and character-  
istically the most bloodthirsty fanatics  
and hypocrites on earth. They will fight  
and exterminate each other on the slight-  
est pretext, and justify their murders  
with texts from their Bible. Compared  
with Buddhists, they show up badly. More  
than a third of the human race has been  
swayed by the religion of Buddha for over  
twenty-four centuries—without a religious  
war. In Christendom every war is a holy  
war, a war carried on in the name of re-  
ligion, and every step in human progress,  
real or fancied, has been marked with tor-  
ture, fire, sword, machine guns, and mur-  
der generally. "I come not to bring peace,  
but the sword" has proved the most pro-  
phetic utterance in the Christian Bible.  
Even in times of peace, so-called, it has  
been freely paraphrased into "I come not  
to encourage human advancement, but to  
fight it to the last ditch at every point."

"To take up some of the loan is a duty  
and privilege no one should neglect, from  
the man and woman of small means to the  
well-to-do people and the rich corpora-  
tions. All should help from a purely patri-  
otic motive, but, in addition, the terms  
of the loan are favorable and attractive."  
To win, money will count; indeed it  
may be the deciding factor. And win we  
must, even at the cost of great sacrifices."  
—The Chairman of Melbourne Stock Ex-  
change.

We may expect this leading stock-  
jobber to forthwith pull out of all 10 or 15  
per cent. ventures, and put his hoards  
into the 4½ per cent. war loan.

Recently, in Brisbane, Alfred J. Har-  
per and Henry G. Davidson, who have  
been fire-fighting for the love of the cause  
for 25 years, got medals pinned on their  
breasts, with a half-promise from the  
Home Secretary that under the Greater  
Brisbane scheme the voluntary men would  
be paid. The men whose property they  
had been protecting for a quarter of a  
century had not the decency to collect a  
subscription.—"Australian Worker."

The property owners know Mr. Mug  
too well to collect subscriptions for him.  
They know he likes being "honored" and  
decorated with pieces of ribbon and cheap  
metal. See how proud some of the Darda-  
nelles "heroes" are of pieces of colored  
ribbon, wooden legs, etc.

The British Chancellor of the Exchequer  
recently warned the masses that com-  
pulsory thrift is coming. Then the Lord  
Chancellor appointed a new Chancery  
Judge at a salary of £6000 a year.

"Vorwaerts," in a critical article on  
German loan transactions, points out that  
up to October the war expenses will be  
at least £1,100,000,000 and that new obli-  
gations will bring the debt up to  
£1,500,000,000, the interest alone demand-  
ing an expenditure of £75,000,000 a year.  
Redemption, administration, and compen-  
sation charges will bring this item up to  
£100,000,000 a year.

Some people are quite jubilant about  
the Mons angels, because they believe they  
defeated the Germans. If a few thousand  
of Frederick the Great's Prussians, and  
a million or so of Attila's Huns, had only  
hopped in on the other side, the atmos-  
pheric effect would have been somewhat  
interesting. We have started on another  
year of insanity. I wonder when the year  
One of the world's sanity will start?—J.W.R.

Disquieting figures dealing with the  
mortality of infants in Britain, as pub-  
lished by the Registrar-General, recently  
prompted London "Herald" to ask "Who  
are the Baby Killers?"

"We would remind our readers," says  
the "Herald," "that our present-day  
allies, the Japs, and their neighbors, the  
Chinese, are suffering no such loss, and  
that no race can survive in the world  
which has a falling birth rate over a pro-  
longed period of years."

The causes which have brought about  
a fall in the British birth rate are many.  
Large numbers of women definitely refuse  
motherhood because of the fearful struggle  
to live.

Men also refuse to marry because they  
will not accept responsibility for chil-  
dren.

"At the same time, children who are  
born are murdered by the hundred thou-  
sand."

"Do our readers understand that we  
kill off more babies in a year than we  
lose men in this the greatest of all wars?  
Prime Minister Asquith tells us that  
in twelve months we have lost some 60,000  
men and officers killed on sea and land;  
in six months of the same period 50,000  
babies under one year died."

"This means in a year 100,000 babies  
perish, and there are another 100,000 who  
perish annually between one and fifteen.  
Two hundred thousand children a year are  
sacrificed mainly from causes which are  
preventible."

"This is one of the greatest horrors of  
peace, and is a question of even greater  
importance than smashing the Germans,  
for if we go on as we are going there  
will be no one of importance left to cele-  
brate the smashing, and the yellow race  
will be dominant throughout the world."



## The International Socialist

Journal of Revolutionary Socialism and Industrial Unionism.

Owned and controlled by the International Socialists.

Subscription: Australia, 4s per year, 1s per quarter. Postage added to other countries.

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The number on the wrapper of your paper is the number at which your subscription expires. Renew before that number is reached.

At least it is a relief to know that our new army and navy are to be founded upon solid European precedents. They are to be used only for defence.

—The Masses.

## Keeping the Gold in the Country.

Mr. Higgs, the Commonwealth Treasurer, is alarmed at the financial outlook.

Gold was being shipped from the Commonwealth in vast quantities when Mr. Higgs took office as Treasurer, and he foresaw that at the rate it was going a time must arrive when there would be little or none to ship, when a general slump would ensue.

Having seen this, Mr. Higgs commenced to do things. He decided that the gold must be kept in the country because keeping the gold in the country "would prevent panic." He said the country with the most gold would come out of the crisis best, so he vetoed the export of gold.

When the war broke out, Mr. Higgs's party was firmly convinced that all that was necessary to finance the war and tide over the strenuous time resulting from it, was to print plenty of paper money for currency. It acted upon its belief and proceeded to flood the country with Commonwealth notes, while conserving as much gold as possible.

The Government was warned at the outset that its belief was illusory, that money only represented usable goods—food, clothing, and other necessities of life. It was pointed out that goods from abroad could only be paid for on a grand scale with goods produced here, and that if such goods were not produced, gold would have to be shipped to meet payments.

The Government, however, drove or drifted ahead until the other day, when Mr. Higgs saw the chickens coming home to roost. The Government's notes were not acceptable outside the Commonwealth and the crass foreigner demanded gold—the great international fetish. On seeing what was happening, Mr. Higgs made no bones about changing his views. He proceeded to howl before the golden calf by attempting to keep the gold in the country to avert an impending panic.

As most of the gold he can keep in the country is locked up, it is difficult to see how it will avert a panic; and it is still more difficult to see how Americans who demand gold will be satisfied if its shipment is vetoed. Mr. Higgs will probably find that he has taken the surest way of putting Wall-street Exchange against Australia and hastening a crisis.

This year, Mr. Higgs has to borrow 50 millions. If he can raise half this amount locally at 4½ per cent. he can consider himself lucky seeing that the big lenders are earning from 10 per cent. upwards in other directions. Where can he get the other half? And how can he pay interest on it, while his Government allows the sources of production to remain in idle hands?

If Mr. Higgs and those associated with him could only see that neither gold nor

paper money can feed a people if the effective producers are withdrawn from production, and sent to the front, while the land and factories can only be used for the profit of a few, there might be some hope of something sane being done. But the Labor Party is blind to the needs of the time, and is oscillating helplessly between its own paper illusion and the gold fetish of banking fraternity.

### The Second War Loan.

At the Council meeting of the Sydney Chamber of Commerce, held on January 25, it was unanimously decided to ask members to support the Commonwealth second war loan to the fullest possible extent. While the Chamber of Commerce was carrying this resolution, two other meetings were being held elsewhere by banking institutions, at which it was shown that investors had a much better thing on than a war loan at 4½ per cent.

At its half-yearly meeting, the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney declared a dividend of 10 per cent., and added £25,000 to the reserve fund, and the Australian Bank of Commerce did equally as well.

In face of these returns we may be sure that the resolution passed by the Chamber of Commerce will carry little weight. Money will go where the dividends are highest despite the fervent appeals to the patriotism of investors. Perhaps the Chamber of Commerce knew this, but thought a little bunc would impress the wage-workers whose employers are asking them to put part of their wages into the War Fund at 4½ per cent., while their masters go after the 10 per cent. investments elsewhere.

### A Genuine Patriot.

I gauged his age to be about forty, as he stood in the quarry wielding a sixteen-pound hammer, upon a rock that gave out a stubborn ring of protest at every onslaught. His arms were burnt chocolate, showing years of incessant toil. Little rivulets of sweat coarsed over his dust-covered countenance, and oozing out through his singlet and trousers, gave him the appearance of having been rolled in mud. Being after a job, I inquired of him the character of the boss. Oh, he is not so bad as bosses go, you know, he panted, laying his hammer down and giving a suspicious, half expectant look about him. Are they all union men here? I asked. Some of them are, I am in two unions myself. Is the Boss hostile to unionism? My oath he is, he sacked a bloke the other day because he thought the bloke was an agitator. But there are things much more important to-day than unionism. What are they? I inquired. The war in Europe and how are we going to win it. Who are the we. Disdainfully tossing his head he replied: Who are the we? Why the British, of course, are you a b—y German? No, I am not, but thought the word "we" was out of place, seeing that neither you or I are at the front. His fists clenched as he straightened himself. You might be a b—y shirker, I'm not. Look here, young feller, I tried three times to enlist, but the doctor would not pass me on account of having contracted muscles. Is that a disease? No, it aint, he said, it is the result of hard work. I have been working since I was twelve years old and I can hold my own with any man at it. Anyhow, have you volunteered, he demanded. Certainly, I have not. If we were all like you the b—y Germans would be here to-morrow, and what would become of our freedom? How would you like to work under a German boss, he screeched, for his temper was rising. I have half a mind to punch—but the appearance of a motor car around the corner saved me from a black eye, for he seized his hammer and started belting the rock with double quick time with a face almost white. He whispered: 'Struth, mate, clear out, that is the boss in the motor. If he sees me talking to you he'll give me the sack.

WOODCUS.

Harder conditions for the mass of men and women of Christendom obtain to-day than ever before. Crime, squalor, and murder and suicide were never so widespread, nor the bare struggle for subsistence so intense. Why? The Christian answer is: "Because man is base at heart and you can't change human nature." Bosh! The one thing that surely happens to human nature and all nature is—Change.

The fatherly interest members of the Sydney Stock Exchange are now evincing in the welfare of the workers is a gratifying outcome of the war. They are considering a scheme under which every worker who subscribes 16s. 6d. to a war loan will receive £1 at the end of five years. They heartily desire the workers to enjoy the privilege of financing the war while they themselves look after the more profitable ventures.

## SHORT CUTS.

In a previous letter, it was shown that a reserve army of unemployed was the king-pin on which the continuance of capitalism depends. It was not so with previous ruling classes. The chattel slave and serf could not withhold their labor, hence a reserve army to intimidate the workers was not a necessity.

This but shows the ignorance or hypocrisy of those who say there is work for all at any time under the present system; or those who agitate for right to work legislation as if capitalism would willingly commit suicide.

Machinery is indeed the Frankenstein's monster, which labor must subdue or be destroyed. By its aid the capitalist is not only enabled to counteract assaults on profits, but even to imperil the existence of poorly-paid laborers. It was stated a few years ago that that marvellous invention, the cotton-picking machine, could pick an amount of cotton at a cost of eightpence, which would cost two shillings if cheap negro labor was employed. We all know how the sewing machine has intensified sweating.

It may therefore happen that machinery can be so perfected as to make it unprofitable to the capitalist to pay enough wages to enable the laborer to subsist or, in other words, machinery will be cheaper or more profitable than paying even starvation wages.

Take this from the "Story of Steel" as showing what is happening even now. It says:—"Power-driven shovels and loading and unloading machines and big cars, locomotives and ships have revolutionised the lake transportation of ore. At the mines in Michigan and Minnesota, and along the shores of Lake Superior, a fifty-ton steel car is loaded in three minutes in eight thrusts of a giant steel shovel. The long ore trains, carrying a thousand tons of ore to the train, are hauled to the marvellous docks at Duluth, Two Harbors, Superior, Ashland, Escanaba, and Marquette by one hundred and thirty ton engines. There the cars empty through drop bottoms into steel steamships. The Augustus B. Wolvin, one of the lake ore carriers, recently took on a cargo of 10,245 tons of ore in 89 minutes. 9,000 tons of this cargo was put aboard in 34 minutes at the Ohio ports. The ore is transferred by giant unloading machines, carrying ten tons at a stroke, from the ship to ore trains to be hauled to Pittsburgh."

If appearances are not deceptive, it is rapidly becoming a question not how we can make a monopoly of labor power, but how the struggle for a bare existence may be maintained. Marx makes this clear where he says in "Value, Price and Profit":—"In the progress of industry the demand for labor keeps, therefore, no pace with the accumulation of capital. It will still increase, but increase in a constantly diminishing ratio as compared with the increase of capital. These few hints will suffice to show that the very development must progressively turn the scale in favor of the capitalist against the working men, and that consequently, the general tendency of capitalist production is not to raise but to sink the average standard of wages or to push the value of labor more or less to its minimum limit."

Marx makes it clear enough that the very force of circumstances compels the working class to contest the ground inch by inch with the capitalist class, but he adds:—"the working class ought not to exaggerate to themselves the ultimate working of these everyday struggles. They ought not to forget that they are fighting with effects, but not with the causes of those effects, that they are retarding the downward movement, but not changing its direction, that they are applying palliatives, not curing the malady. They ought, therefore, not to be exclusively absorbed in these unavoidable guerrilla fights incessantly springing up from the never ceasing encroachments of capital or changes of the market."

It is on account of this "downward movement" that Marx says in "Capital" that the mass of "misery, oppression, slavery, degradation and exploitation" grows instead of diminishing during the progress of capitalism. It will be noted he does not say poverty increases, but misery brought on by the humiliating circumstances engendered by oppression and exploitation. It may, and indeed does, pay the employer well: as Lever and Cadbury testify, to treat their employees well in order to more thoroughly exploit them, and incidentally rob them of every trace of independence and freedom. Besides this, as the standard of comfort is raised, as the worker acquires an education, he becomes more sensitive to his surroundings and conditions of both himself and his class, his reason and commonsense, less obscured by religious and economic superstition, revolts at the contrast between his own desperate struggle for existence, and

the lavish and criminal waste of the idle, parasitic, morally depraved, and intellectually bankrupt capitalist class and this knowledge, born of bitter experience and every-day observation, presses itself upon him with the force of an obsession, and renders him miserable beyond the experience or imagination of chattel slave or serf. Truly, in his case, the words of the Bible are true where it says:—"He that increaseth knowledge, increaseth sorrow."

Having described the economic perspective, the question of tactics should not be difficult to settle. It is manifest that in the conduct of the every-day struggle the assistance of every wage earner is required, irrespective of whether he is class-conscious or not. It is a struggle for mere existence, and is of interest to every wage earner. Therefore, the amalgamation of unions, brought on as it is by economic pressure, may be looked upon as a necessity. We cannot afford to dispense with the unclass-conscious worker, because he is indispensable in this struggle. Neither need we talk of Socialist unions until we have a workable nucleus of revolutionary sentiment inside the unions. On the industrial field the fight is imperative, we cannot afford to discriminate or delay until the majority or even a large minority of unionists are class-conscious.

In the meantime, and, indeed, at all times, the main Socialist organisation is the political organisation, as the capture of the political machinery of government is essential to success. The political organisation must strive to educate the workers in the matter of class-consciousness, in the utter futility of palliatives, whether industrial or political, and whilst assuring them that the struggle on the industrial field admits of no let up, they must realise that in the end and in the long run capitalism remains the victor. When, after repeated assaults by powerful labor combinations, with more or less success, have failed to give the results desired, when the superlative strength and boundless resources of organised capital are once grasped the hopelessness of any lasting benefits to be derived from mere political reforms and industrial handouts will be apparent to the most backward intellect. The unions will then show such a decided tendency to Socialism that either they must endorse its demands or there will be a split in their ranks.

Industrial unionism and I.W.W.ism are merely premature births because the class-conscious movement is as yet an embryo, and not by any means matured in the ranks of trades and labor unionists. It was to be expected in the circumstances that the latter should resort to spectacular tactics in order, if possible, to arrest attention and facilitate their growth. Hence, the wild talk of "taking and holding" the instruments of production in spite of the armed forces of the State, the subjugation of the boss by sabotage, direct action, and such like anarchist methods. With such wild cat ventures, Socialism has neither part nor lot. It is the duty of the Socialist, both within and without the unions, both in season and out of season, to point out the necessity of the social revolution. He must sow the seed, economic evolution will force its growth.

At any rate we have no Socialist organisation in the industrial field as yet. The conception of government by delegates representing industries is not Socialist government, which must represent all the people whether engaged in the actual work of production and distribution or not. Government by industrial delegates is suspiciously related to the Syndicalist idea that the workers in an industry should own that industry. Group ownership would be little if any better than private ownership. Socialist action is essentially democratic; it is mass action whether on the industrial or the political field. It has innate faith in democracy no matter how backward popular opinion may be. If at times we consider the progress slow we must reflect we cannot outpace economic evolution. In the matter of union amalgamation it would appear to be retarded by the unwillingness of skilled labor to amalgamate with the unskilled.

Another obstacle is the farming element, always reactionary in every country, and intensely individualistic. Signs are not wanting, however, that economic evolution is here also effecting changes. The advent of reinforced concrete buildings, where the furniture is made from steel and terra cotta in factories, such as the Singer building in New York, presages a revolution in the building trades. In farming, the introduction of the caterpillar type of oil engine enabling large areas to be farmed at small cost augurs no good for the small farmer whom Roosevelt calls "the bulwark against Socialism."

Once industry is simplified by machinery, and capitalist production enters farming on a large scale, the proletarianisation



of the entire mass of wage earners will then be completed, and the sameness of their interests being practically identical their inclusion in one organisation ought to be easy to accomplish.

If it were possible for the One Big Union to maintain the standard of comfort against the assaults of capitalism the workers would assuredly content himself to recognise the conditions as normal and satisfactory. It is only when he finds that no matter what steps he takes either on the industrial or political field, capitalism can always in the final analysis outmanoeuvre and defeat him, it is then only that he will on both fields, yea, and on every conceivable field, declare unhesitatingly and unmistakably for the abolition of capitalism.

It is as Belfort Bax says—"Before the working classes are prepared for the revolution they must place the demands of the revolution before everything else." The bravado of turbulent minorities who profess to frighten the capitalist by the adoption or threat of hooligan tactics will and must fail, for however much of a rogue the capitalist may be by nature or by practice, or both combined, he is certainly no fool, and can accurately gauge the value of such tactics. But when the day comes, as come it will when the scales drop from the eyes of labor, then the reforms on which the workers now expend enormous energy in proportion to the trifling results attained will on that day be thrown at them without the asking. Anxious to save the present system at all hazards, the capitalist class will then like the Russian who pursued by wolves casts away his provisions and even his horses to stay the progress of his determined enemies and save his life. Hence a knowledge of class consciousness on the part of the workers is not only the most direct action but the only action that will bring lasting results even now and achieve the revolution later on.

Two things make for Socialism, viz., economic evolution and class consciousness on the part of the workers. The progress of capitalism urged on by the inevitable conflict for better conditions gives impetus to the first mentioned. Socialist propaganda the second. Both these factors are forming the new society within the shell of the old. Capitalism is supplying the technical conditions. Socialism the intellectual atmosphere. When an industry is trustified it is ready for the change, when the workers realise the necessity for the change, it will come to pass.

Meanwhile to those who in our day and generation the larger revelation of Socialism is at once a religion and a philosophy both convincing and satisfying and who work and wait for the economic and intellectual forces to carve their predestined way there is enlightenment and comfort when after surveying the immense possibilities of the rational organisation of society they ascend the Pisgah heights of legitimate imagination and like Moses of old gaze upon the promised land of the future, which, though they may never live to enter, yet they know for certain contains within its borders the potentialities of all that makes life worth living for and worth striving for here and now.

F. SUTHERLAND.

### Only a Little One.

It is claimed by conscriptionists in England that the conscription proposal before Parliament is only a very mild measure of compulsion; that it only takes in a comparatively few members of the nation; that it will be operative only for a short time—until after the war. These are seductive and fallacious reasonings, and are in entire conflict with all the rules of logic. The apologetic nature of the reactionaries' plea for the "little instalment" of compulsion is quite sufficient to condemn it, and to betray to the logical mind its insidious dangers.

In "Percival Keene," one of Captain Marryat's old-time novels, one of the characters is a young woman who has committed a faux pas. On being questioned by her mistress about the advent of the unwanted child, she excused herself by saying, "If you please, ma'am, it was only a very little one." This is on a par with the conscriptive infant about to be foisted on an unwilling, cuckold sire, the British nation. Begotten unrighteously, and not wanted, the chief excuse advanced for its existence is that it is "only a very little one." But the "very little one" will grow. Brought to the birth, it will not fulfil the predictions of an infantile decease. Fathered by an evil spirit, and fostered by Monopoly, this latest addition to the Conscrip family will thrive and grow, until, like its brothers on the Continent, it will become a bloody monster. Oh, that it might be strangled at the birth, ere it grows to devour generations yet unborn!

"Only a little one!" Only a little zephyr starting playfully in the forest; but it gathered forces and grew into a mighty wind; then it became a tornado, and destruction followed its path.

Liberty is a precious and a delicate thing.

## An Expatiation.

"There is only one royal way to learning, and that is enquiry. The man who doesn't enquire never learns."—I.S., No. 229, Jan. 15th, 1915.

One often wonders why some men have such stores of information at their finger tips, while others are devoid of all but the most commonplace facts of life: why some men have strong opinions which they are ever eager to expound, while others merely repeat the statements of the last strong personality with whom they have come in contact, provided, of course, that he supported the views which they have been taught to consider the truth.

Let us enquire into this matter and test the truth of the statement on which this article is an expatiation.

The knowledge which a man possesses depends upon his general mental make-up. Facts are the basis of learning. The knowledge of facts alone is insufficient. The power to use them must be present. Now, facts are acquired by observation. Therefore, observation plays an important part in the acquisition of knowledge. An unobservant man has to have facts pointed out to him. The good observer needs no assistance of this kind.

A man travels in the country. He notices that the contour of the hills is sharp and angular in some parts and rounded in others. He observes and notices differences at once. Then he wonders why. Remark how observation leads to inquiry. Perhaps he has no knowledge of geology. He questions the first likely person he meets as to the difference in contour of various parts of the country, and learns that volcanic rocks weather more readily than the sedimentary sandstones. Hence the rounded appearance of volcanic country. He always thought that geology was a dry subject that only bespectacled young men and ladies of uncertain age indulged in as a silly hobby. Now his appetite is whetted. He has more spare time in his travels than he ever thought of before, so he takes an amateur interest in geology. Here is an instance of how observation leads to enquiry, which makes interesting the acquisition of knowledge otherwise unpalatable.

The reason why the man who never inquires never learns is because intellectual work is irksome unless we have a strong motive. He has no motive because he is not interested. The more we inquire, the greater is our desire for knowledge. Inquiry makes our minds more receptive. The receptive mind acquires knowledge as easily as a hungry man does the disappearing trick with a beef-steak. Just as a man without an appetite finds no pleasure in consuming food, so the student who regards his studies as a task, finds no pleasure in the acquisition of knowledge.

To tamper with it is dangerous. Men sense its value most when it is in jeopardy, or when it is lost. Love for liberty has produced revolutions. Perhaps, yet again the world shall see great conflagrations to restore freedom to enslaved democracies.

Conscription transforms free men into slaves. It is meet only for slaves. It means an entire submission of the conscience and the body to the ruling power of the time. It is a betrayal of humanity. "Only a little one?" Nay, it is a great one. The "little one" plea is but a sop to secure the acquiescence of the many to the betrayal of the few; but in the sequel, the many will be also captured in the conscriptive net. "Only a little one!" A little opening in the flood-gates of hell—and who shall stay the mighty torrent?

WOMERAH.

It is stated "that Geo. G. Reeve, of Beechworth, Vic., organiser and co-founder with D. Grant and others of the Industrial Workers in Australia, in conjunction with Covington Hall, of New Orleans, La., U.S.A., is collecting materials of 'A History of the Working Class for Freedom.' Hall is to deal with the American portion, whilst Reeve is to write of the periods in British and European histories from the days of Tyler, Cade, Lilburn, the Lallards, the Luddites Riots, 'The Fraternal Democrats' of Julian Harvey and Ross, 'The Chastists and Their Aims,' 'The Founders of the Workingmen's International,' 1851, and their programme, 'The Communist Manifesto.' The Australian part will deal with the 'development' of freedom in Australia since 'Eureka,' 'the New Australia Movement,' Labor and Socialist Journals,' with details of incidents of strikes, covering 60 years to the present, covering miners, shearers, seamen, transport workers, etc., together with a summary and commentary. Amongst other historians quoted are Froisart, Froude, Robert Hall, Guizot, Sue, Cobbett, Michelet, Leckey, and F. Eden.

When you have finished with this paper hand it to a friend.

We have seen how observation leads to enquiry with good results. Intelligent observation is investigation. Our object, then, is to stimulate investigation. The only way to do that is to discourage respect for authoritative utterances on all matters, and to encourage personal inquiry.

Because U. R. Plausible, M.A., poses as an authority on economics is no reason why every man should regard his opinions as true. He conducts a class in which young men are given opinions on controversial matters; and, as they regard him as infallible because he is a professor, they repeat his opinions without subjecting them to rigorous examination.

The young worker of an inquiring turn of mind observes that he and all other wealth producers get just a subsistence wage, and no more. It strikes him as peculiar that those who produce wealth do not have the pleasure of consuming it; while those who perform no useful function in society have a surplus. He sees wealth wasted at one end of the social scale and poverty at the other. He wonders why. He questions the right of certain individuals to own the soil which is the common inheritance of all. He sees monopolies all around him. He dips into the financial papers, and reads of 20 per cent. dividends. He realises that the possessor of £5,000 in shares in this banking company enjoys an income of £1,000 a year without working. In a life of forty years, he could consume wealth to the extent of £40,000 and still have his initial capital. All these facts make our intelligent citizen realise that if those who don't work consume the product of labour so lavishly they must be robbing the workers. This fact is so manifest that those to whom it is a truism almost despair at times of the intelligence of their fellow-workers.

Still the future is full of hope. Education of the right kind is doing its work. It is producing multitudes of young men and women who think for themselves. Once let a man emancipate himself from the superstitions of a by-gone age, and he is bound to evolve into an acrid critic of the existing social order.

Let him inquire in order to learn. Not to learn how to become a professional shark, but to see the injustice and absurdity of capitalistic society and to realise the necessity of showing his fellows that they possess the economic and political power to accelerate the transition to the co-operative community.

ROBERT STARBUCK.

### Hopelessness of Laborism.

The Sydney "Bulletin" (6.11.16), with undeniable cogency, points out the entire hopelessness of present political Laborism in Australia. It says: "The ease with which bills before Parliament can be dropped, mislaid or forgotten by the Government in power shows the folly of the Political Labor Party in wasting its time adding to or improving its present platform while the machinery to enforce its will is lacking. Theoretically, the P.L.L. or P.L.C., or whatever it may be called, has the right to dictate to members of a Labor Cabinet, but Holman and OTHERS have proved that in practice it is the Labor Cabinet that dictates to the P.L.C."

Considered in conjunction with this important statement from Victoria, Chief Inspector of Factories Murphy, about union officials, the above estimate makes it clear that the workers of this country require to imbibe a lot more I.W.W.ism and to get rid of a host of exalted "Labor" officials before much good will come to mitigate the misery of Australian wage-slavery! Here's what Murphy says: Notwithstanding the belief that is held in some quarters that union secretaries and other office holders of unions are the real fomenters of industrial disputes, as a general rule these men are the FORCE THAT HOLDS THE WORKERS BACK.

Inspector Murphy and this "Bulletin" scribe have got something into their heads which our toiling brethren need to know. It is this: That the "Labor" organization in this country is mostly a capitalist necessity, giving a few men comfortable jobs as palliatives of a rotten system, inducing the workers to vote and forcing them to tramp, while they should be busy mobilizing their forces to destroy capitalism.

PATK. M. STANLEY.

By God! I will accept nothing which all cannot have their counterpart of on the same terms.—Walt Whitman.

## The Rebel's Library.

THE "COMMUNIST MANIFESTO."

FEDERALISM, CAPITALISM AND THE INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY OF LABOR.

(Ray Everitt.)

The "Communist Manifesto," drawn up by Marx and Engels, was first published in 1848; and since then it has been translated into Russian, English, Danish, Spanish, French, and several other languages. Thus, as Engels states in the preface, "the history of the Manifesto reflects, to a great extent, the history of the modern working-class movement; at present it is undoubtedly the most widespread, the most international of all Socialist literature, the common platform acknowledged by millions of working men from Siberia to California."

Marx and Engels show clearly how the increased productivity of labor, through the aid of the machine, caused the downfall of the Feudal system, and how the same cause will bring about the downfall of the capitalist system. In the following quotation on this point, by bourgeoisie is meant the modern capitalists:—"We see then: the means of production and of exchange on whose foundation the bourgeoisie built itself up, were generated in feudal society. At a certain stage in the development of these means of production and of exchange, the conditions under which feudal society produced and exchanged, the feudal organisation of agriculture and manufacturing industry, in one word, the feudal relations of property became no longer compatible with the already developed productive forces; they became so many fetters. They had to burst asunder; they were burst asunder."

Into their places stepped free competition, accompanied by a social and political constitution adapted to it, and by the commercial and political sway of the bourgeoisie class.

A similar movement is going on before our own eyes. Modern bourgeois society with its relations of production, of exchange, and of property, a society that has conjured up such gigantic means of production and of exchange, is like the sorcerer, who is no longer able to control the powers of the nether world whom he has called up by his spells. For many a decade past the history of industry and commerce is but the history of the revolt of modern productive forces against modern conditions of production against the property relations that are the conditions for the existence of the bourgeoisie and of its rule. It is enough to mention the commercial crises that by their periodical return put on its trial, each time more threateningly, the existence of the entire bourgeois society. In these crises there breaks out an epidemic that, in all earlier epochs, would have seemed an absurdity—the epidemic of over-production. Society suddenly finds itself put back into a state of momentary barbarism; it appears as if a famine, a universal war of devastation had cut off the supply of every means of subsistence; industry and commerce seem to be destroyed; and why? Because there is too much civilisation, too much industry, too much commerce. The productive forces at the disposal of society no longer tend to further the development of the conditions of bourgeois property; on the contrary, they have become too powerful for these conditions, by which they are fettered, and so soon as they overcome these fetters, they bring disorder into the whole of bourgeois society, endanger the existence of bourgeois property. The conditions of bourgeois society are too narrow to comprise the wealth created by them. And how does the bourgeoisie get over these crises? On one hand by enforced destruction of a mass of productive forces; on the other, by the conquest of new markets, and by the more thorough exploitation of the old ones. That is to say, by paying the way for more extensive and more destructive crises, and by diminishing the means whereby crises are prevented.

"The weapons with which the bourgeoisies felled feudalism to the ground are now turned against the bourgeoisies itself."

Anyone who desires a clear statement of the general principles of Scientific Socialism, should read the "Communist Manifesto." In it, the Marxian theory, known as the "Materialist Interpretation of History," is applied, and a comprehensible interpretation of the economic conditions of the working class is given.

Mr. Fisher, who arrived in England on Sunday, said that no country was more suited for and more willing to receive farmers than Australia. Maimed and injured soldiers would also be welcomed.

Yes, farmers and injured soldiers will be heartily welcomed by a nice benevolent gang of land speculators.



## Unity: Shall it Be?

In the current issue of the "People," the A.S.P. statement on unity, which appeared in these columns a few weeks ago is reprinted. Subjoined is a short reply by the S.L.P., in which we of the A.S.P. are accused of "suppressing" the truth about unity, misrepresenting statements that have been made by members of the S.L.P. and general dishonesty in connection with the unity proceedings. All of these things might form the basis of a few columns of counter-abuse (for the "People" issue in question is largely devoted to the elevating task of abusing the A.S.P. and its "officials") but we refrain from clouding the unity issue by filling the columns of the "International Socialist" with matter that cannot assist unity and certainly will militate against the propaganda of Socialism. We simply content ourselves with saying that the statements printed by us in connection with unity are absolutely true. We have ample written and verbal proof of this. Also, we have tried our hardest to bring about unity. The A.S.P. has approached the S.L.P. on two or three occasions, the unity statement in question being a digest of the proposals made at the various conferences that were held as a result of the A.S.P. approaching the S.L.P. on the matter of bringing unity about, some two years ago.

Again we are making the attempt! Will it succeed? We are ready for unity! We always have been so! We will do our utmost to obtain it! And for these reasons we refrain from the unfortunate methods of abuse that seem to dominate those responsible for the publication of the "People." We refuse to be a party to a controversy on the relative merits of the S.L.P. and A.S.P. or the justification for the existence of the A.S.P. for the simple reason that we want unity, and as we (the A.S.P.) are here as a party, the largest by far in Australia, it is idle to discuss our genesis. We want to accomplish the exodus of the A.S.P. and the S.L.P. as such, and produce a united party capable of carrying on the good work that has already been done by the two separate bodies. To this end the Central Executive of the A.S.P. has instructed me to communicate with the S.L.P. and endeavour to arrange a further conference of the two parties to discuss unity. The following letter has been forwarded to the S.L.P.:

January 22nd, 1916.  
J. O. Moroney,  
General Secretary  
Socialist Labor Party,  
16 George St. West,  
Sydney.

Dear Comrade—

I am instructed by the Central Executive of the A.S.P. to communicate with you respecting the holding of a conference at an early date to discuss unity between the two parties. The conference could be arranged similarly to those held some time ago for the same purpose, viz., three delegates from each party, a chairman from one party and a recording secretary from the other, the conference to be open to party members to attend. No expenses need be incurred in hiring a hall, the A.S.P. hall being available for the purpose. I might suggest as a suitable date, should you agree to meet us, Wednesday, February 9th.

With sincere hopes that this may be the final step to the much desired goal UNITY.

I am,  
Yours for the Revolution,  
LUKE JONES,  
General Secretary.

The Central Executive earnestly calls for the support of members and branches in the endeavour to abolish the anomaly of two Socialist parties with identical principles existing where only one should be necessary.

LUKE JONES,  
Gen. Sec. A.S.P.

Every new subscriber you get for "The International Socialist" is a blow struck at Capitalism.

## Social and Dance.

A SOCIAL AND DANCE  
WILL BE HELD

Every Friday Night

AT THE

**SOCIALIST HALL,**  
369 PITT STREET, SYDNEY.  
ADMISSION 6d.

Don't forget the Half Crown Fund.

## A.S.P. News & Notes.

AUSTRALASIAN SOCIALIST PARTY.

Objective.—The social ownership with Democratic control of the means of Production, Distribution and Exchange.  
Headquarters: 115 Goulburn St., Sydney.  
**LUKE JONES,**  
(General Secretary)

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE.

Next meeting of the C.E. will be held on Sat. Feb. 5.

**LUKE JONES,**  
Gen. Sec.

SYDNEY BRANCH.

Last Sunday interest was added to the party propaganda by the presence in Sydney of Comrade Considine, the delegate of the Barrier Miners. Comrade Considine spoke both at the Domain meeting and at the meeting in the hall in the evening. He put the position of the miners splendidly, and proved that the capitalists by their greed had brought on the conflict. By the way, he exposed the lying daily press and Labor politicians. He enlisted the sympathy for the miners of all those who heard him, and we hope that the miners will be successful in their struggle.

The demonstration in the Domain was a very successful one. Comrades Lorimer, Luke Jones and others participating, together with Comrade Considine, the delegate from Broken Hill. The huge audience, consisting of fully 5000 people, attentively followed the speakers throughout. A resolution, "that this meeting of Sydney citizens expresses its admiration for the splendid fight that the Barrier miners are waging for shorter hours and generally improved conditions, recognising that this is part of the real fight for freedom, and we pledge ourselves to support the Barrier miners to the utmost of our ability," was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Collections to the amount of £13 17s. 7d. were taken up, and will be forwarded to the miners.

In the evening Considine addressed a crowded meeting in the hall. He was followed by the Rev. Mr. Rivett, who held the audience in intense interest for nearly an hour, denouncing conscription and war.

**FIXTURES FOR NEXT SUNDAY**—Domain.—Chairman, Wyatt Jones; Speakers, Rennell, Mrs. Lorimer, Highfield, Park-street.—Chairman, K. Leslie; Speakers, Rennell, A. Rees.

Meetings in Market-street have also been re-started, and we hope to keep them going in the future.

H. CHRISTOPHERSON,  
Secretary.

## Sunday Evening Lectures.

SOCIALIST HALL, SYDNEY,  
369 Pitt-street.

A Lecture will be delivered every Sunday, 8 p.m.

Sunday, February 5.—Comrade A. Arthur will lecture.

Sunday, February 12.—Luke Jones. "Some Illusions of the War."

NEWTOWN BRANCH.

Branch Rooms, 41 Enmore-road, Newtown.

Economic and Debating Class held every Wednesday night.

Dancing Class held every Monday night.

PROPAGANDA FIXTURES.

Saturday: Chair, W. Gay. Speakers, F. Hancock, J. Kilburn.

Sunday: Chair, W. Gays. Speakers, F. Hancock, A. Kilburn.

RAY EVERITT,  
Secretary.

BALMAIN.

A very successful propaganda meeting was held here on Sunday night. Comrades Nelson and Sloan were the speakers. The Broken Hill strike was dealt with. The speakers demonstrated how society to-day is divided into two classes: the working class and the capitalist class, and between these two classes there is a struggle, a class struggle, to defend their conflicting industrial interests. The capitalist class are more class conscious than the working class are at present; that is, the capitalist more distinctly realize that as capitalists they constitute a class with a class interest to defend. On the economic field the capitalists divide the workers, and have them fight one another, like the Port Pirie men are doing now—seabing on the men now fighting a battle against the masters at the Barrier. Questions were asked and dealt with.

GEORGE NELSON,  
Secretary.

MELBOURNE.

News from Melbourne is to hand to the effect that J. R. Wilson was committed last week to the Court of Sessions, opening on February 1, on a charge of unlawfully and maliciously wounding Jas. Cusack. It appears that at the previous Saturday night's dance, the comrade at the door was dragged outside and beaten by a mob hostile to the Socialist Party. Comrade Wilson and others went to his assistance, and the mob immediately attacked Wilson, who retreated inside. Wilson was struck on the head and kicked in the abdomen, while Comrade Zeegan was being kicked about the head as he lay on the ground. Wilson secured a small revolver, which had been kept in a drawer in the office, but before he had time to warn his assailants they sprang upon him. In the scuffle, the revolver went off, the bullet striking the floor and ricocheting, hit a man named Cusack in the leg. The police then arrived, and arrested Wilson, who was subsequently committed by a Police Magistrate, bail £100, for unlawfully wounding, and £20 for carrying firearms without a license.

Melbourne Comrades are doing their best to raise funds for Comrade Wilson's defence, and will be glad to receive donations towards securing the aid of Counsel. On the face of it, Comrade Wilson was in no way to blame for what happened, as he merely acted in self-defence, but under present war conditions the charges against him are serious. His long career as a sterling militant and able propagandist entitle Comrade Wilson to the best support of all comrades who can help in the present trouble. Therefore, all who can should send cash donations to the Secretary, 47 Victoria-street, Melbourne. Sydney comrades can hand donations to the Editor for transmission to Melbourne. Let all assist who can.

BRISBANE.

January 27, 1916.

Brisbane Branch, after passing through a period of coma, now bids fair to take its stand as one of the most active branches in the Commonwealth. The soporific effect of mutual national slaughter is wearing off, and the members are awakening to the necessity of constant propaganda. The Sunday night lectures have been re-started, and a splendid syllabus for the season drawn up.

At the last business meeting it was unanimously decided to attempt to establish the right of free expression in Brisbane. The Labor Party, should they refuse this, will be recreant to their principles. However, we mean to convince them that the International Socialist Party is not a party of mere pacific negation. We realise that the fighting spirit is inherent in the people, and it is our purpose to turn this dynamic human energy away from working class slaughter, and toward the annihilation of all that which warps and twists the toiler's life.

Comrade Read has been taken seriously ill. We all know what this means. The precarious existence usually vouchsafed a working plug by a benevolent capitalism precludes him from laying up a store of wealth, consequently in times of sickness the struggle to live is intensified.

The Branch has decided to do all in its power to aid Mrs. Read and family. Any comrade who has a few shillings to spare can send them along to Ern. Fredlien, Box 10, South Brisbane. We do not wish to dilate further upon this, except to state that it is a case for the urgent consideration of every true-hearted comrade.

Yours in the agony of toil,  
GEE BEE.

I.W.W. MEETING BROKEN UP BY SOLDIERS.

"A.B." writing from Melbourne, describes the breaking up of a meeting by soldiers at Footscray. The soldiers attacked the speakers and yelled and shouted, and threw missiles around promiscuously. Even women were struck and knocked about. In explanation, "A.B." says: "I wish to state that our speakers have made it a point not to discuss the war while on the box, nor have we done so notwithstanding the efforts made to draw us into it. Again, the I.W.W. is not a union, but a body of working men who make a study of industrial unionism, and try to educate the workers in its principles. It is along these lines that we speak, so that this removes any excuse that might be put forward that we are speaking against the war; hindering recruiting, and so forth. Readers of the 'International Socialist' will thus see the trend of affairs. Unless disorderly military mobs are checked, Australia will soon become a worse hell for those who dare to think along scientific Socialist lines than they say Germany is. If freedom of thought and freedom to express that thought is denied us, what else is there in any country worth fighting for? If the brain and tongue are chained, then we are as the lower animals; worse, for we have

the power of speech, but cannot use it. We were told that 'free speech is dead'; if that is so, then it will not be long before unionism and political activity will die also, and all three buried with the epitaph 'What might have been' above them. On Friday night last the mob again marched up, but as we were not speaking they were disappointed. But it proved that the attack on the 14th was planned out."

AUBURN BRANCH.

The above branch meets every Monday night at comrade Jenkin's residence, Kurradah Road, Auburn.

Those who desire to join the branch and help in forwarding the Socialist cause should hand in their names to the branch secretary.

A. SCHOFIELD, Sec.  
25 St. Helliers Road, Auburn.

## An Open Letter

To Readers of Readers of the "International."

Comrades—

I rarely take the responsibility of addressing you by letter; my efforts are usually confined to the soap box, where one may yell and rant and roar and damn the stupidity of the boneheads at one's cessitate strange procedure, hence a down sweet will. However, conditions necessitate departure from the usual.

I desire to bring before your notice the financial position of the press, its immediate objects, aims, aspirations and responsibilities.

We desire to improve and increase the size and circulation of the "International Socialist" (the most important feature of our propaganda); to spread broadcast the little paper that lightens the burden of the workers; that helps him to struggle on towards a better day; that gladdens his heart in the midst of despair; that gives hope to the hopeless, and points the true and only road to the emancipation of labour. To improve and increase the circulation, "WE WANT MONEY."

It should be understood that the Sydney Branch has shouldered the burden of publishing the "International Socialist" for the last eighteen months. Whilst not complaining about this (which is only our duty), I feel sure that many readers would like to assist financially in increasing the size, circulation, and fighting qualities of the "International Socialist." Splendid efforts have been made in the past (and these must be recognised), and still more heroic efforts are now required if the "International Socialist"—that ray of light in the dark night of despair—is to continue and grow.

Now, I have a proposition to make. Let everybody interested in the work of the "International Socialist" contribute one half-crown, the money to be placed in a Thousand Half-Crown Fund, which would make a total of £125. Such a sum would make the possibilities of the "International Socialist" great. Most comrades can spare a half-crown, even if the wondrous virtue of self-denial has to be practised.

I earnestly ask all Socialists and advanced thinkers who desire the propagation of revolutionary thought, who desire the wiping out of the classes, who desire the elimination of poverty, crime, misery and degradation to forward the sum of two shillings and sixpence (neither more nor less) to the undersigned, who is the authorised treasurer of the above fund, at the office of the paper, 115 Goulburn-street, Sydney.

Kindly endorse the envelopes "Half-crown Fund."

All surplus accruing will be devoted to producing a modern, fearless fighting magazine, advocating revolutionary ideas and rational thought—a most necessary publication at the present time. I want nothing less than 1000 half-crowns.

Comrades, remember your duty.  
G. H. SLADE.

115 Goulburn-street, City.

God is getting somewhat thin these times, even the part he showed to Moses will be gone soon.

A handbill in the year 5766—"To-night—To-night. In the Hall of Science, Professor reason will lecture on that fascinating historical subject: 'When the World was Mad.' Special reference will be made to the Great War which commenced in the Year of Madness 1914. Come and hear a specialist describing the curious antics of our remote ancestors. Instructive and Amusing. Long live the People"—J. W. Roche.

Printed and published by William Robert Wispear, at 115 Goulburn-St., Sydney, for the Sydney Branch of the Australasian Socialist Party.